

Neighborhood News



City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

December 2011

Meetings to address Neighborhood Business (NB) zoning changes

As the City explores ways to support the vitality of neighborhood shopping centers, residents are meeting this month to discuss potential changes in the Neighborhood Business (NB) zone.

Currently, the City's Land Use Code limits the types and sizes of businesses permitted in NB zones in order to ensure that such businesses are compatible with the scale and character of the surrounding neighborhood. The question is whether some provisions of the NB zone could be modified to enhance economic vitality while maintaining focus on neighborhood-serving uses.

NB-zoned properties include three shopping centers and several smaller sites throughout the city. Proposed changes would be focused on the shopping centers at Newport Hills, Bel East and Northtowne. Currently, staff is asking the Planning Commission to consider changing the maximum allowable size of some retail, service and recreational uses in NB zones from 3,000-5,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet. A second phase of changes in 2012 could update uses allowed by NB zoning – adding some types of businesses and eliminating others.

The following public discussions of the NB zone are scheduled this month:

- **Dec. 6** – East Bellevue Community Council briefing on proposed NB changes, 6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.
- **Dec. 14** – Bellevue Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. study session followed by public hearing, City Hall Council Conference Room.

Final decisions on NB zoning changes will be made by the City Council. For more information, contact Paul Inghram, 425-452-4570 or pinghram@bellevuewa.gov.

Holiday ethnic potluck scheduled Dec. 6

Cultural Conversations – a city/community partnership uniting women of all faiths and backgrounds – will host its second annual ethnic holiday potluck from noon to 1:30 on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Crossroads Community Center. Holiday foods and stories from around the world will be the focus, as participants share their traditions.



Women who live or work in the Bellevue community and want to connect with their neighbors in a multicultural environment, are welcome to attend. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish to share, a recipe and a story to be included in an ethnic cookbook that will be produced after the luncheon. Paper goods, silverware and beverages will be provided.

Two Cultural Conversations groups meet regularly throughout the year. Meetings at the Crossroads Community Center are scheduled for Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 13, April 24 and June 5. Meetings at the South Bellevue Community Center are scheduled for Jan. 19, March 1, April 5, May 10 and June 7. For more information or to RSVP for the holiday lunch, contact Julie Ellenhorn, 425-452-5372.

Bridge tolling begins this month

Tolling on the SR 520 Bridge across Lake Washington is scheduled to begin this month – for sure this time! The Washington State Department of Transportation is testing the all-electronic system to ensure that all components are fully operational, reliable and able to handle more than 100,000 daily transactions as tolling gets underway.

To ensure you're paying the lowest toll rate, set up your *Good To Go!* account and obtain your *Good To Go!* Pass before tolling starts. Go to <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/goodtogo/PassesAvailable2011.htm> or visit the Bellevue *Good to Go* office at 13107 NE 20th St. Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

City offers holiday giving opportunities

December is a season for giving – and City facilities are opening their doors this month to accept community gifts of food, toys and clothing for Bellevue families in need.

At City Hall and also at the Crossroads Mini City Hall, “Season of Sharing trees” are laden with paper ornaments describing items needed by local families and individuals. Everyone is invited to take a tag from the tree, purchase the item described on the tag, and return the item no later than Dec. 16 for delivery to each recipient. Needed items include toys, clothing, toiletries and personal items. Money donations also are accepted at the City Hall Service First desk.

Meanwhile, all nine Bellevue fire stations are accepting donations throughout December for the city's annual toy drive. Residents are invited to drop off gifts of new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food for local families. Items received by Dec. 2 will be distributed at the Crossroads Community Center's annual holiday party.

Come to the Newport Hills Holiday Bazaar

Newport Hills residents invite you to join them Saturday, Dec. 3, for holiday shopping at the Newport Hills Shopping Center, 5620 119th Ave. The neighborhood's holiday bazaar will feature crafts, gifts, holiday ornaments, cosmetics, treats, jams, face painting and a visit from Santa between 10 a.m. and noon. For more information, or to arrange a booth, contact Michelle Hilhorst at santa@newporthillscommunityclub.org or 425-430-1976.

December meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

12/1 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit Draft Annual Report; Solid Waste Collection Contract annual performance review
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

12/1 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30 a.m., 1E-112) Year-end celebration.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

12/5 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Review status of Phantom Lake, Electrical Reliability Study Update – Part 1, Mid-Biennium Budget, Hearing Examiner's recommendation on Boys & Girls Club Conditional Use Permit (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Public Service Announcement from US Post Office, Eastgate/I-90 CAC Update, Consent Calendar, public hearing on State Auditor's Office Performance Audit, Mid-Biennium Budget adoption
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

12/6 Arts Commission (4:00, KBCS 91.3 FM radio station on Bellevue College Campus, House 5, for directions go to <http://kbcx.fm/site/PageServer?pagename=directions>) Budget, plans for Bellwether 2012 sculpture exhibition, other Commission business http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

12/6 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.)

Proposed Neighborhood Business (NB) code amendment

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

12/8 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Downtown Transportation Plan update; Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

12/8 Public hearing on Kinoshita Planned Unit Development and Preliminary Short Plat (7:00, Council Chambers) Proposal to build a residential development of seven lots with six attached townhome units in two buildings and three detached single-family homes on 1.1 acre at 1429 and 1435 Bellevue Way SE

12/12 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Electrical Reliability Study Update – Part 2 (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Swearing in of Councilmembers for Position Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7, commending years of service of departing Councilmember Degginger, determining election method for selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Consent Calendar, second public hearing on extending Short Plat approvals, action on Hearing Examiner's recommendation on Boys & Girls Club Conditional Use, Mid-Biennium Budget adoption, City Manager performance evaluation

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

12/14 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Public hearing on Neighborhood Business (NB) code amendment, briefing on 130th station area planning, Shoreline Master Plan study session http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

12/26 Day After Christmas Holiday – All City offices closed

Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.

